



Les Dames d'Escoffier | Austin Chapter

Celebrating Women of Culinary Achievement and Creating Paths for Those to Come

NINE AUSTIN WOMEN RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO DEVELOP THEIR CULINARY CAREERS FROM LES DAMES D'ESCOFFIER- AUSTIN CHAPTER

AUSTIN, TX, (April 19, 2021) – For the third year in a row, the Austin chapter of [Les Dames d'Escoffier](#), an international culinary leadership organization of women, has awarded \$22,000 in scholarships, professional development stipends, and grants supporting Central Texas women. These funds are timely and critical as these professionals focus on reviving their businesses and careers after the long coronavirus pandemic.

“We had a great number of inspiring and well deserving applicants this year,” said Ha Lam, scholarship chair for Les Dames’ Austin chapter. “In a time when the hospitality industry faces challenges like never before, among all the upheaval and uncertainty, we were mindful to make grants that would be able to reach into the community and help move our industry forward. We were able to grant education scholarships and stipends to women who embody the optimism and hope for the growth of the industry and lasting change in our community. It is a mission Les Dames holds as a guiding principle.”

This year’s [scholarship winners](#) include:

- Culinary School
 - **Megan Baumbach**, a student at the Auguste Escoffier Culinary School in Austin and head pastry chef at Good Things Grocery in Martindale, receiving a \$2,000 Culinary School Scholarship to further her studies.
 - **Aneka Kruse**, a student at the Auguste Escoffier Culinary School in Austin, receiving a \$2,000 Culinary School Sponsorship to further her studies.
- Kitchen Professional
 - **Jacqueline Agans**, executive pastry sous chef with WIP Hospitality, receiving a \$2,000 Kitchen Professional Stipend to attend a continuing education course at the Center for Advanced Pastry Studies (CAPS).
- Beverage
 - **Samantha Olvera**, a production operator for Garrison Brother Distillery, receiving a \$2,000 Beverage Stipend, to continue her education with a goal to become a Master Distiller.

- **Taj Reid**, a wine steward at Central Market, receiving a \$2,000 beverage stipend to pursue Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) certifications.
- **Candice Price**, assistant category manager over beer and spirits globally for Whole Foods Market, receiving a \$2,000 beverage stipend to pursue her Level 2 and 3 Cicerone Certification.
- Business Owner
 - **Diana Naya**, co-founder of Pickle My Fancy Ferments, receiving a \$2,000 business owner stipend to attend the Cultured Guru Fermentation School in Louisiana.
 - **Ali White**, co-owner and operator of Nervous Charlie's Bagels, receiving a \$2,000 business owner stipend to expand her HR and leadership skills by attending UT Austin's Center for Professional Education.
 - **Alexandra Manley**, the corporate director of baking at McGuire Moorman Hospitality, receiving a \$2,000 business owner stipend to learn more about medicinal herbs by pursuing training from the Sacred Journey School of Herbalism.
- Travel
 - **Veronica Sanchez**, production lead and trainer at Sweet Ritual Vegan Ice Cream, receiving a \$4,000 travel stipend to travel to Seattle and research all aspects of vegan ice cream and its production.

To date, the Austin chapter has awarded more than \$140,000 in scholarships, continuing education stipends and community grants.

In addition to providing scholarships, the Austin Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier hosts education, mentoring and networking [events](#) for both members and non-members, supports local [philanthropic initiatives](#) such as its annual holiday dinner for the homeless, and provides weekly "food runs" to reduce food waste in the community.

For more information about the Austin chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier, go to <http://Ideiaustin.org/>. Follow us on [Facebook](#) (Ideiaustin) and Instagram (@austindames).